

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 01906 051040Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00

ICAE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 IO-13

SSM-03 EB-08 HA-05 /102 W

-----120774 051048Z /14

O R 050955Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7463

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM

CINCUSNAVEUR, LONDON ENG

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 1906

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 5, 1978, 1200 LOCAL

REF: BEIRUT 1855 (DTG 040952Z APR 78)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE CEASEFIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY.

SIILASVUO AND ERSKINE VISITED BEIRUT. SOVIETS REPORTEDLY

VOICED SUPPORT FOR PLO IN SOUTH. A TOKEN FORCE OF LEBANESE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 01906 051040Z

GENDARMES TOOK UP POSITIONS ON THE HIGHWAY BETWEEN TYRE AND

SIDON. UN FORCES TOTALLED 1348 MEN. PLO URGED SOUTHERNERS

TO RETURN TO THEIR VILLAGES. COMILLE CHAMOUN CALLED FOR A NEW

U.N. RESOLUTION. NEXT SITREP APRIL 7. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY SITUATION.

THE CEASE FIRE CONTINUES TO HOLD GENERALLY, BUT SPORADIC SHOOTING CONTINUES. ON APRIL 4 UNIDENTIFIED GUNNERS, PRESUMED TO BE PALESTINIANS, FIRED MORTAR ROUNDS WHICH LANDED NEAR THE POSITIONS OF NORWEGIAN U.N. TROOPS GUARDING THE KHardALI BRIDGE AS WELL AS IN MARJ'UYUN, TWO MILES WEST, BUT CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. CHRISTIAN MILITIAMEN IN MARJ'UYUN RETURNED THE FIRE.

3. U.N. OFFICIALS VISIT.

A. U.N. MIDDLE EAST COMMANDER ENSIO SIILASVUO AND UNIFIL COMMANDER EMANUEL ERSKINE PAID A ONE-DAY VISIT TO LEBANON ON APRIL 4.

B. SIILASVUO MET WITH FOREIGN AND DEFENSE MINISTER BOUTROS AND ARMY COMMANDER KHOURY AND TOLD REPORTERS THAT NO DATE HAD BEEN SET FOR LEBANESE ARMY UNITS TO DEPLOY SOUTH, OTHER THAN "AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE "TIMETABLE FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL HAS NOT BEEN FINALIZED YET." SIILASVUO AVOIDED GIVING DIRECT ANSWERS TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME LEBANESE CALLS TO INCREASE UNIFIL'S STRENGTH AND MISSION.

C. BOUTROS SAID THAT THE TALKS WITH SIILASVUO HAD YIELDED "TANGIBLE PROGRESS" ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN SOUTH LEBANON. HE SAID UNSC RESOLUTION 425 MUST BE IMPLEMENTED, "BECAUSE ON ITS IMPLEMENTATION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 01906 051040Z

TATION DEPENDS THE RAISON D'ETRE, THE EXISTENCE AND THE FUTURE OF THE U.N., NOT TO MENTION THE LEBANESE PEOPLES' ABILITY TO FORM A STATE AND TO CONTINUE TO EXIST."

D. GENERAL ERSKINE VISITED THE FRENCH CONTINGENT IN TYRE. HE SAID CONTROL OF THE QASIMIYAH BRIDGE WAS "A HIGHLY POLITICAL ISSUE."

4. SOVIET SUPPORT FOR PLO VIEW OF 425.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY IKE ON APRIL 5 FRONTPAGED STORY SAYING THAT UNSPECIFIED "SENIOR DIPLOMATIC SOURCE" IN BEIRUT HAD TOLD REUTERS THAT THE SOVIET UNION PLEDGED FULL SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN COMMANDERS WHO REFUSED TO TURN OVER THEIR POSITIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON TO UNIFIL. THE SOURCE SAID THAT THE SOVIETS SHARED THE PLO'S SUSPICIONS THAT U.S.-SPONSORED UNSC RESOLUTION 425 AND UNIFIL WOULD BE USED TO HAMPER PALESTINIAN OPERATIONS IN SOUTH LEBANON RATHER THAN TO SUPERVISE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL.

5. GENDARMES MOVE SOUTH.

THIRTY LEBANESE GENDARMES MOVED SOUTH TO TAKE UP POSITIONS ALONG THE COASTAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN TYRE AND SIDON. THE GOVERNMENT HAS

ADVERTISED THIS AS ITS FIRST STEP IN TRYING TO ASSERT ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER SOUTH LEBANON.

6. UNIFIL ACTIVITIES.

A. ACCORDING TO A STATEMENT RELEASED BY SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM IN NEW YORK, THE U.N. FORCES IN LEBANON AS OF APRIL 2 TOTALLED 1,348 MEN, BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

627 FRENCHMEN
224 SWEDES
216 NORWEGIANS
195 IRANIANS
68 OFFICERS FROM ILMAC
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 BEIRUT 01906 051040Z

18 CANADIANS

B. ON APRIL 5 AFP REPORTED A FRENCH OFFICER HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS DEPUTY COMMANDER OF UNIFIL.

7. PLO URGES SOUTHERNERS TO RETURN.

ACCORDING TO PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY (WAFA), "SEVERAL PALESTINIAN POPULAR AND TRADE UNIONS CALLED ON ALL LEBANESE AND PALESTINIAN SOUTHERNERS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES, CAMPS AND VILLAGES, IN ORDER TO FOIL ISRAEL'S OBJECTIVE OF GRADUALLY DEPOPULATING, ANNEXING AND JUDAIZING THE SOUTH. . . . THE UNIONS PROMISED THAT ANY FAMILY WISHING TO RETURN TO THE SOUTH WILL BE GUARANTEED ALL FORMS OF HELP, AND THAT THE SOUTH WILL BE RE-BUILT." COMMENT: ACCORDING TO RELIABLE SOURCE, ABOUT 60 PERCENT OF THE PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN SIDON HAD RETURNED TO THE TYRE AREA AS OF APRIL 3 UNDER PLO PRESSURE (SEPTEL). END OF COMMENT.

8. CHAMOUN DEMANDS BROADER U.N. RESOLUTION.

NLP LEADER CAMILLE CHAMOUN ON APRIL 4 DEMANDED A REVISION OF U.N. SECURITY RESOLUTION 425. HE SAID, "THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CERTAIN BIG POWERS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON LED TO THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH DEALS WITH PART OF THE SOUTH AND IGNORES THE OTHER MAJOR PART IN WHICH MOST OF THE PALESTINIAN FORCES AND THEIR ALIEN ALLIES ARE GATHERED THREATENING PEACE. THE ONLY WAY TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION IS TO RECONSIDER THE SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION AND BRING IN MORE FORCES CAPABLE OF BARRING THE PRESENCE OF ANY ELEMENTS WHO POSE A THREAT TO PEACE." (CHAMOUN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL HAVE CONSISTENTLY CRITICIZED UNSC RESOLUTION 425 FOR FAILING TO DEAL WITH THE ARMED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 BEIRUT 01906 051040Z

9. OUR NEXT SITREP WILL BE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 7, AND ON MONDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS THEREAFTER, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, POLITICAL SITUATION, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BEIRUT01906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780146-1136
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780492/aaaacztz.tel
Line Count: 178
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 96057db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BEIRUT 1855
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3073569
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE SITUATION, APRIL 5, 1978, 1200 LOCAL
TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, ASEC, MARR, LE, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/96057db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014